

Meet John Carethers, MD . . .

A Detroit native, Dr. Carethers was raised in a family with eleven siblings. He attended Detroit Public Schools, graduated from Wayne State University, and was accepted into Wayne State University School of Medicine. In 1985, the summer before he began medical school, Dr. Carethers participated in the Wayne State Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP). His experience at HCOP helped prepare Dr. Carethers for the rigors of medical school, where he was elected to Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society and was recognized with numerous awards and fellowships. Following completion of his residency in Internal Medicine at Harvard – Massachusetts General Hospital, he continued training as a distinguished Fellow in Gastroenterology at The University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor. In 1995, he was appointed assistant professor of medicine in residence at the University of California, San Diego, where he is currently Professor and Chief of the Division of Gastroenterology.



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About the Program

- HCOP is authorized under Title VII of the Public Health Service Act. Together with the Centers of Excellence (COE), HCOPs function to increase the representation of minority and disadvantaged students in the health professions.
- The Wayne State University HCOP offered programs that provided health professions information, skills enrichment, supplemental advising and guidance to Detroit area high school and college students.
- The Wayne State University HCOP program also offered retention support services to medical students. The various programs empowered dozens of students from disadvantaged backgrounds to become successful health professionals.

According to Dr. Carethers . . .

The summer program that I participated in was the initial exposure that I had to what medical school would be like. This was fascinating and eye-opening, as it laid out what I needed to do to complete my first year. That sparked my confidence in my ability to receive honors in all four years of medical school. Without the program, I may not have had that level of achievement. Because of my success, many other doors that otherwise may not have been available opened, including an internal medicine residency in a major Harvard program, and a premier gastroenterology fellowship.

The program gave me an extraordinary amount of confidence in my ability to self-educate and succeed in medical school. An aura often surrounds entering medical students, particularly those from disadvantaged or minority backgrounds, because many lack role models or other venues to know what to expect once you enter medical school. I am proud to be a product of this program, and through my own success, I am certain of its continued need for student achievement if we are to build a diverse national supply of physicians in the United States.



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